



# King Midas

## and the Gold



Retold by Alex Frith  
Illustrated by Simona Sanfilippo



# King Midas

## and the Gold

King Midas loves gold – but his greed soon gets him into trouble. This lively retelling of a classic Greek myth has easy-to-read text and fun puzzles to try after the story.



**King Midas and the Gold** is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principle Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at Roehampton University. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with puzzles to excite and inspire any beginner.

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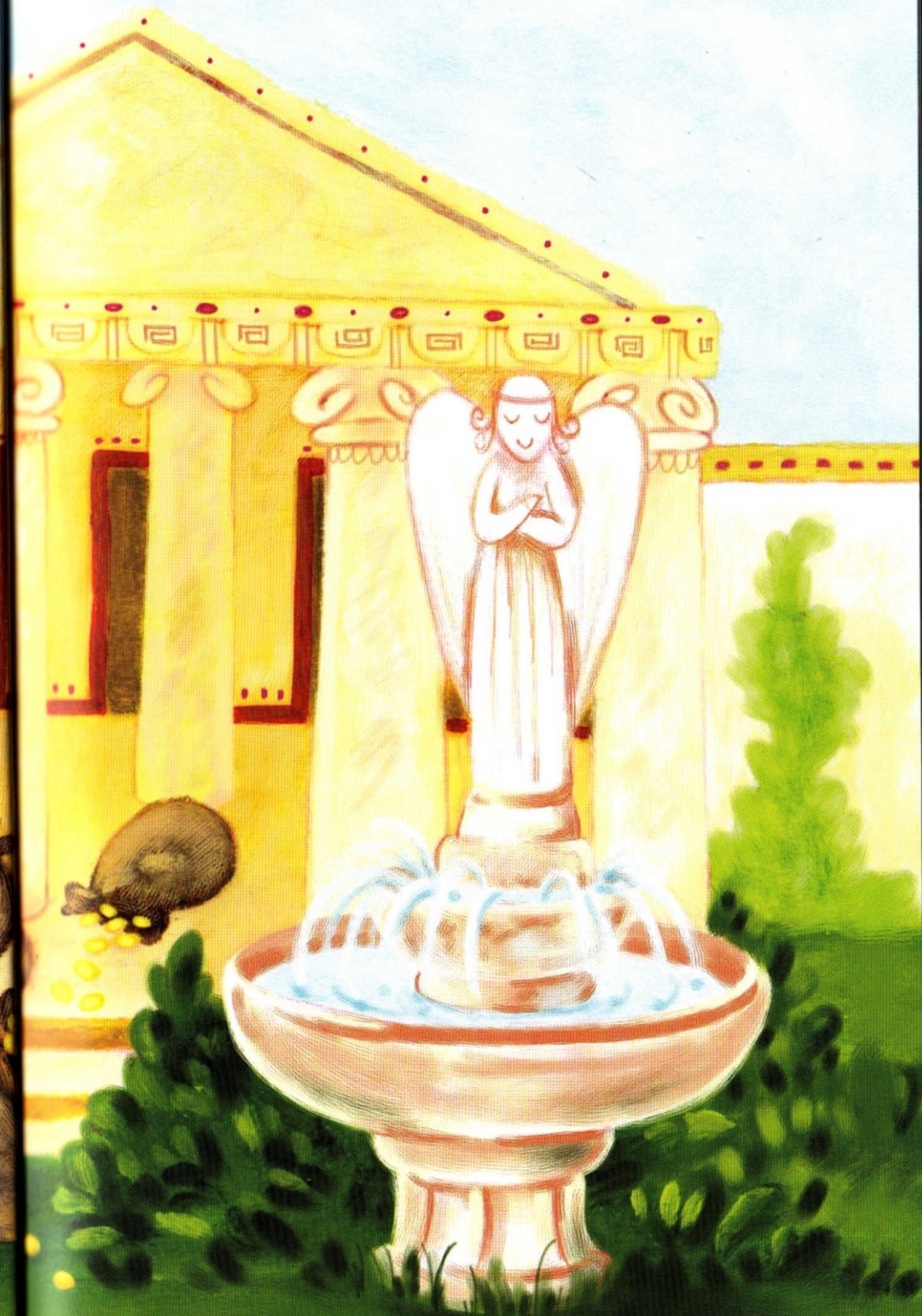
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King Midas was  
very rich.





He was kind, too.

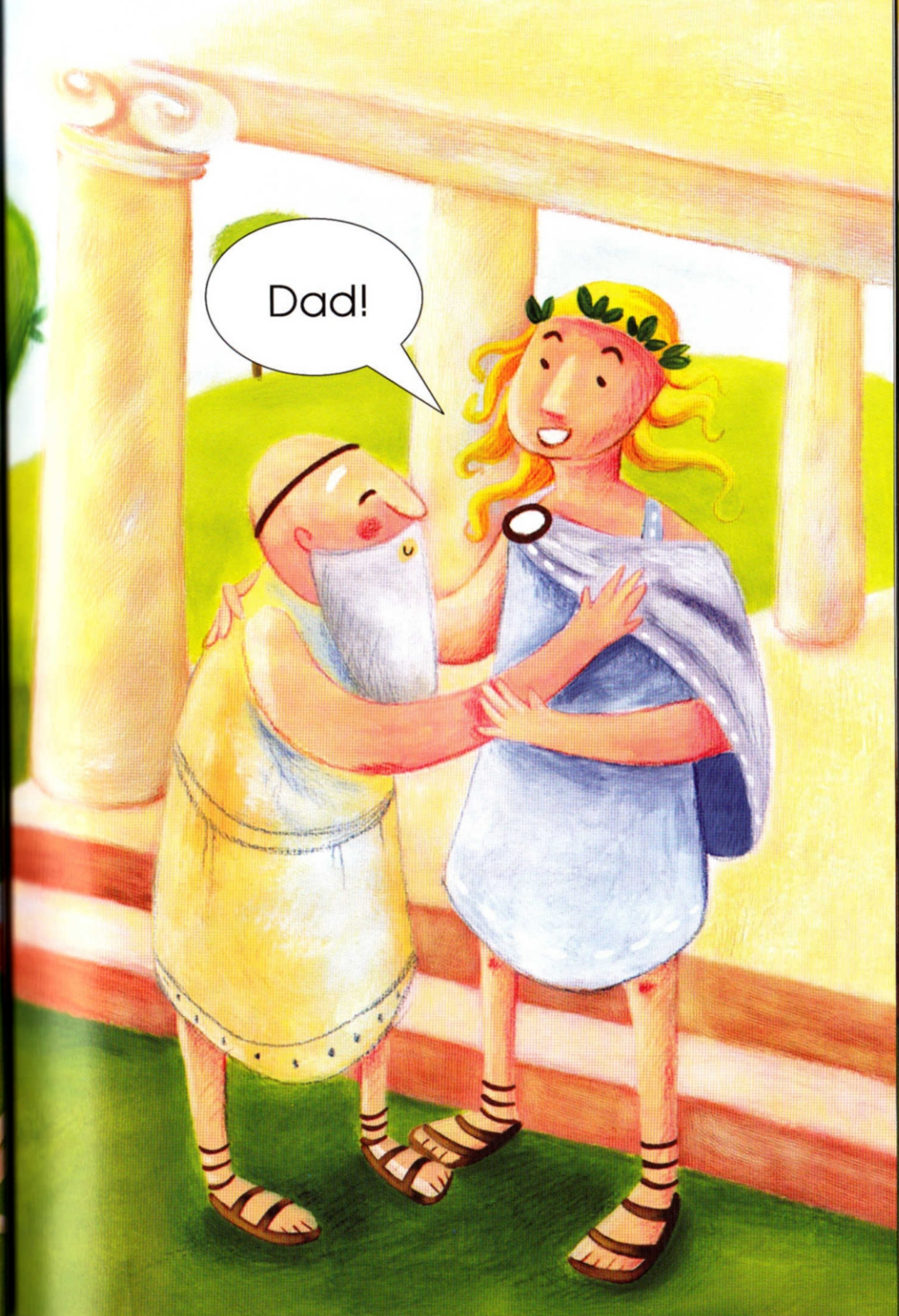


One day, he met an old man.





Midas helped the man  
to find his house.

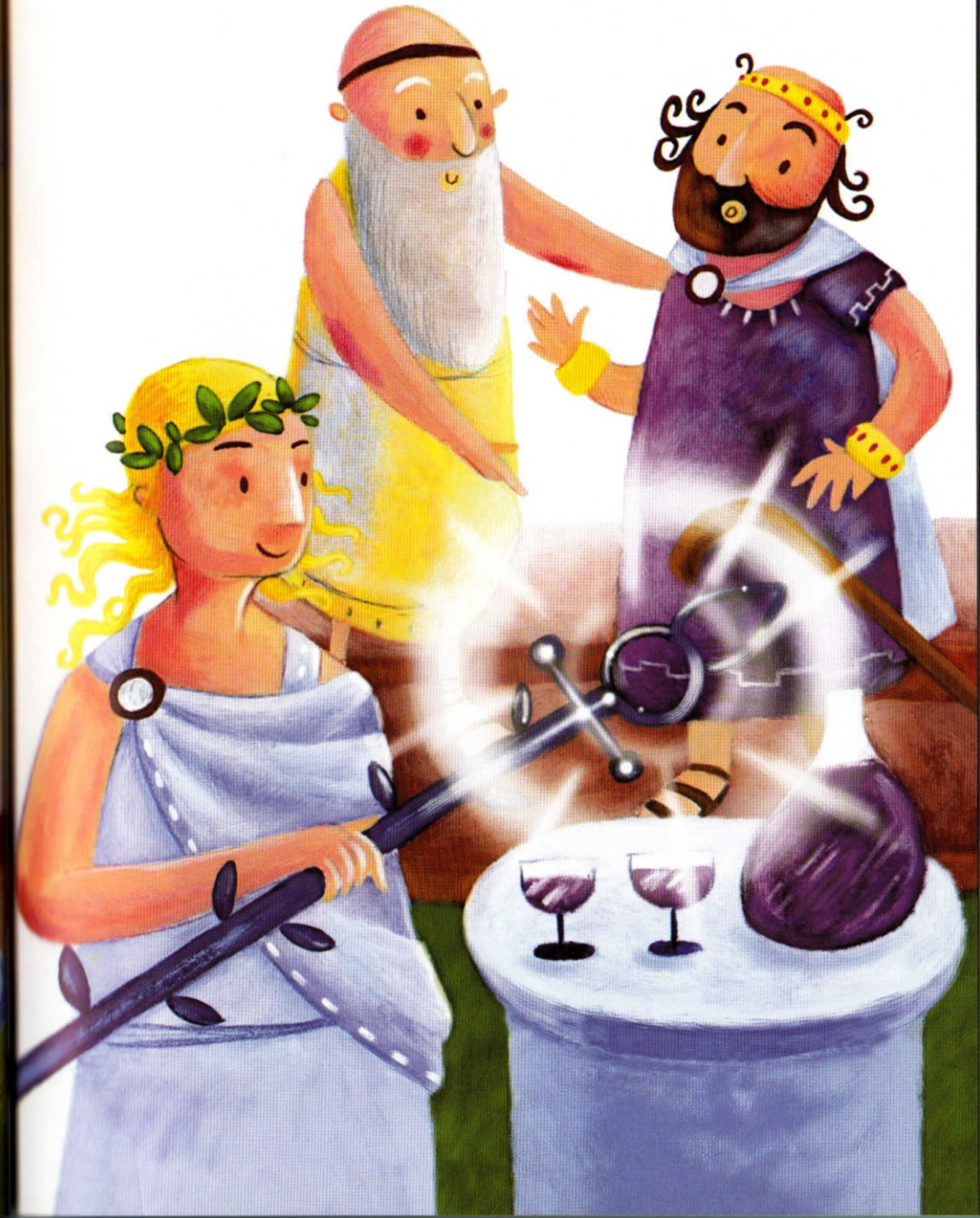




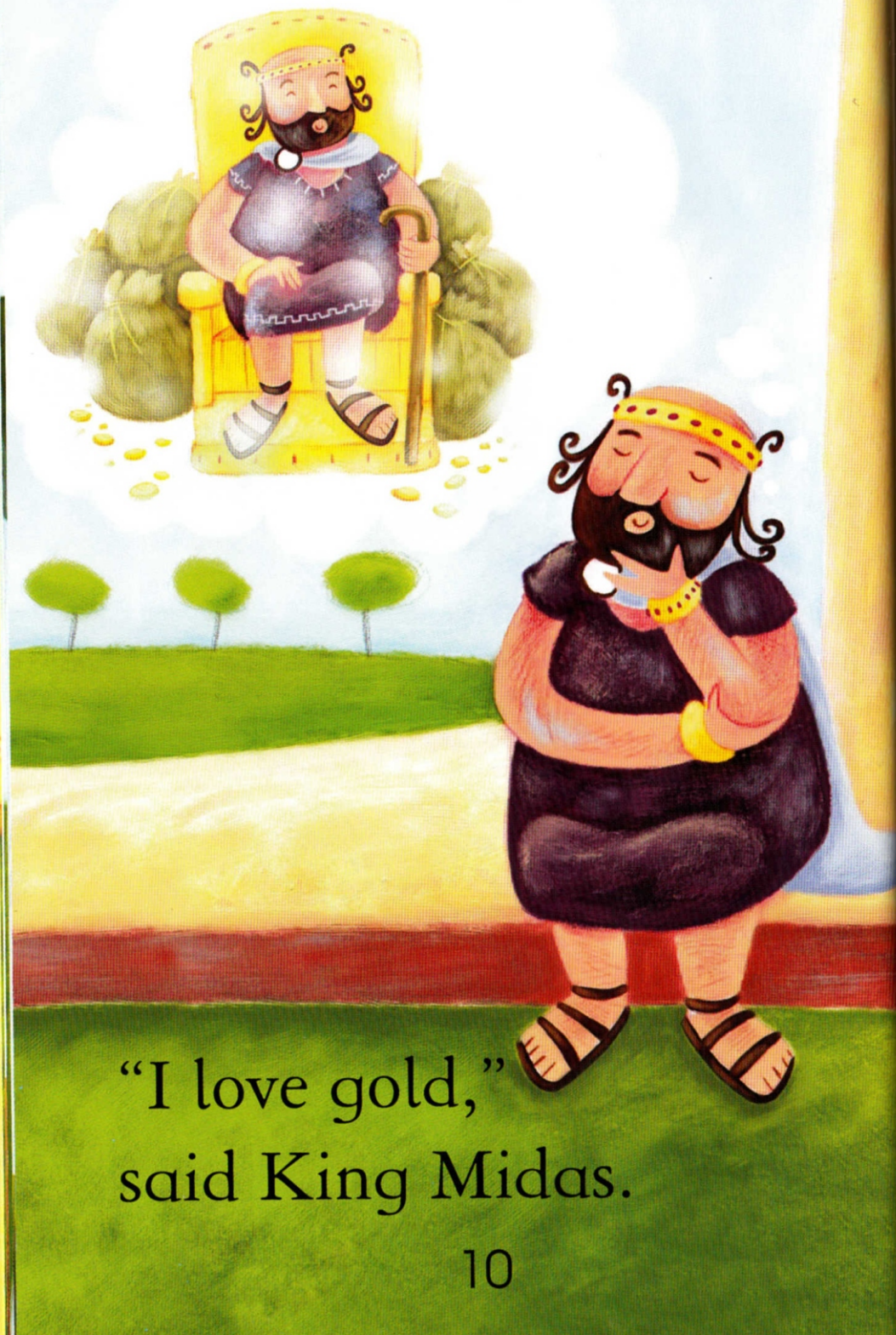
“My son is a god,”  
said the old man.



“He can give you  
a wish.”







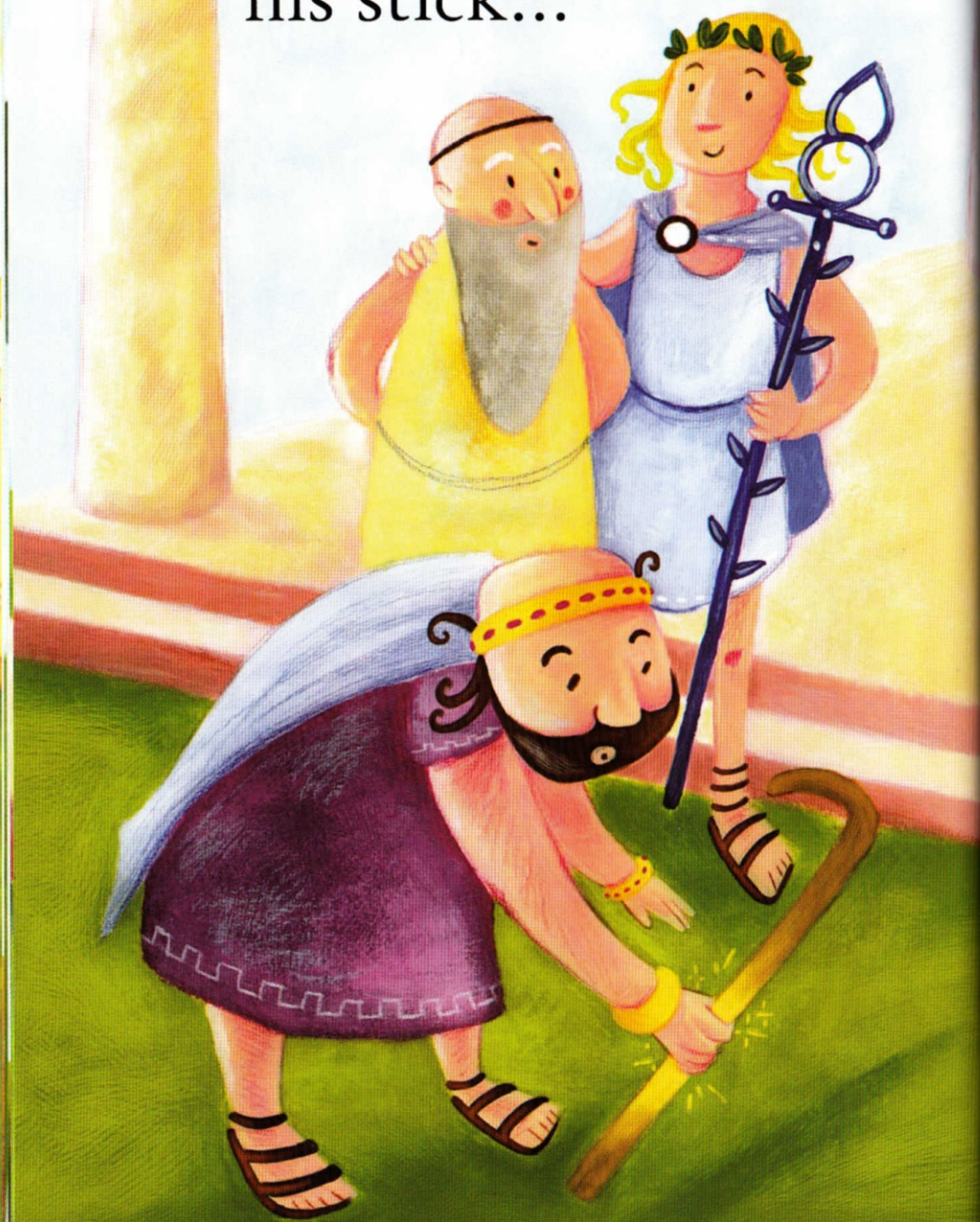
“I love gold,”  
said King Midas.

“I wish I could touch  
things and turn them  
to gold.”





King Midas touched  
his stick...



...and it turned to gold.





He touched his  
palace...



...and it turned to gold.

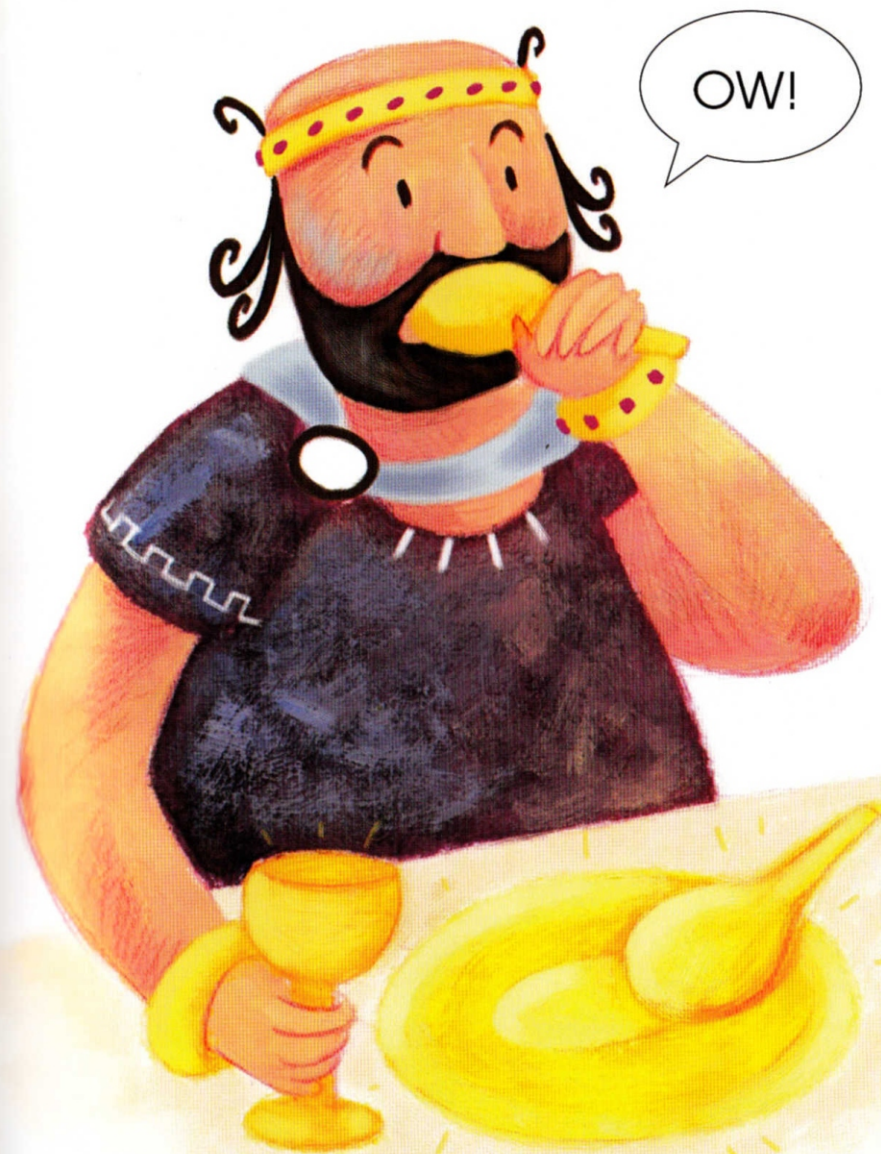




He touched his dinner...

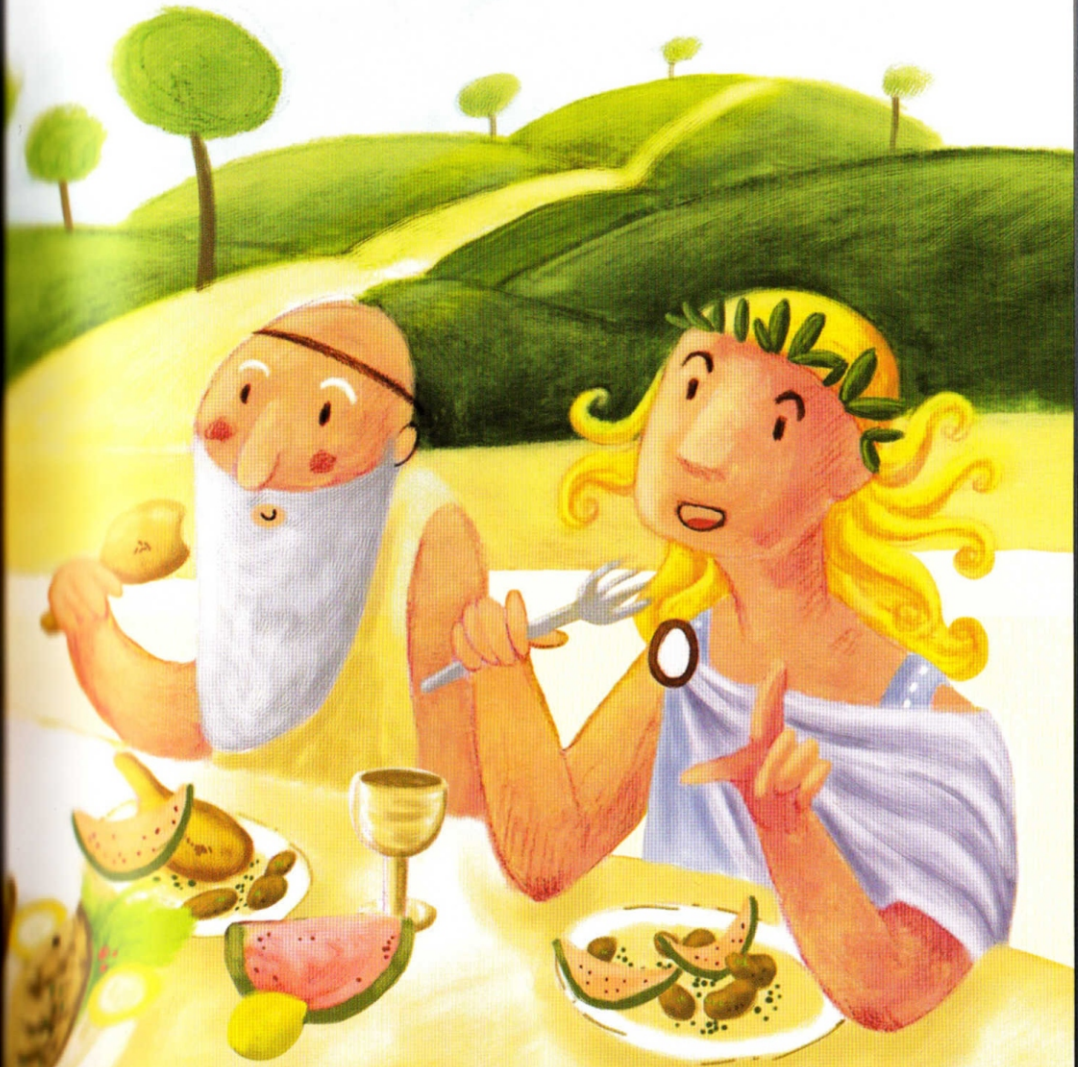


...and that turned to gold, too.





“How can I make  
it stop?” said  
King Midas.



“There is a secret river in  
the hills,” said the god.



“Find it and wash  
yourself in it.”

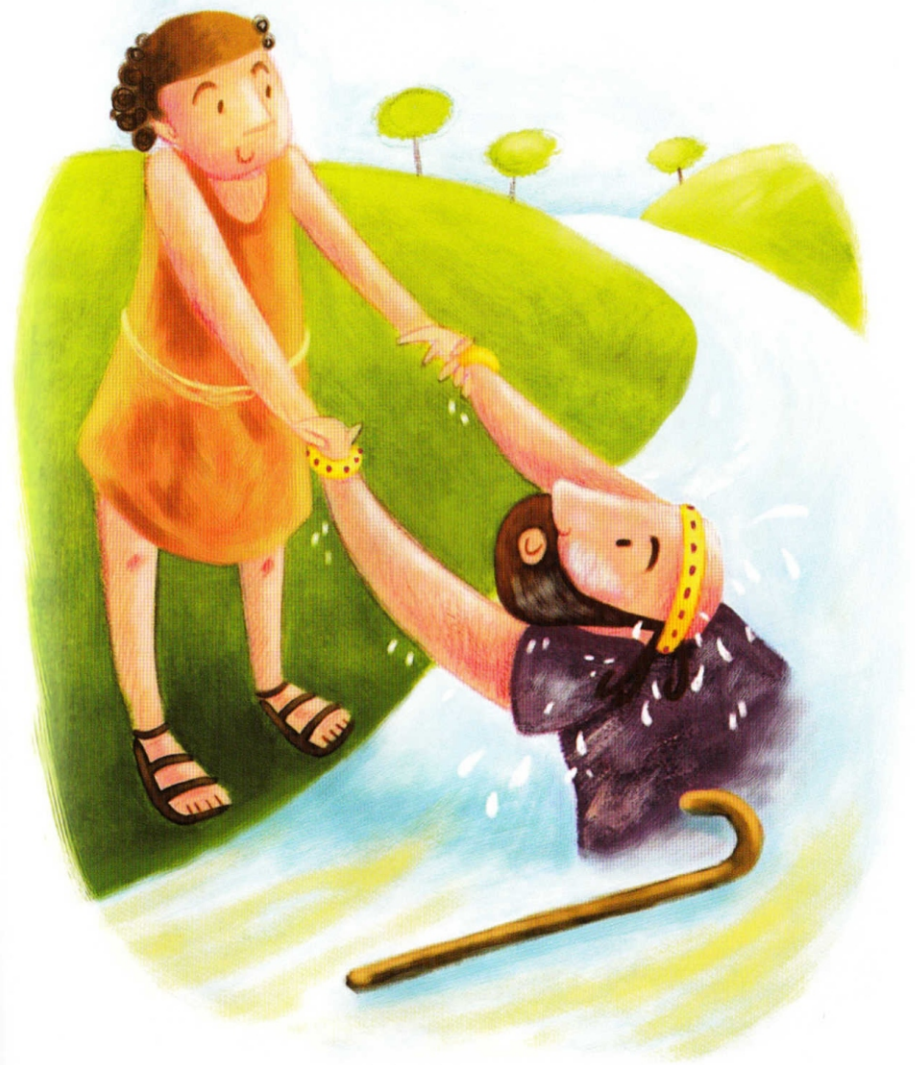


Midas walked a very  
long way.





At last, he found  
the river.



And the water washed  
away his golden touch.



# PUZZLES

## Puzzle 1

Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?



There are six to find.





Which order should the pictures be in?

### Puzzle 2



A



B



C



D

### Puzzle 3



A



B



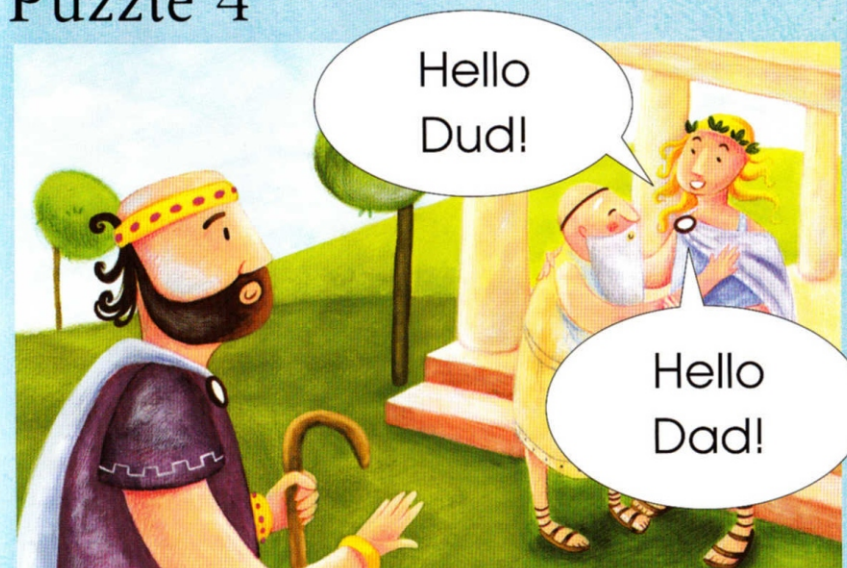
C



D

Choose the best sentence in each picture.

### Puzzle 4



### Puzzle 5





What happened next?

## Puzzle 6



A

or

B?



## Puzzle 7



A

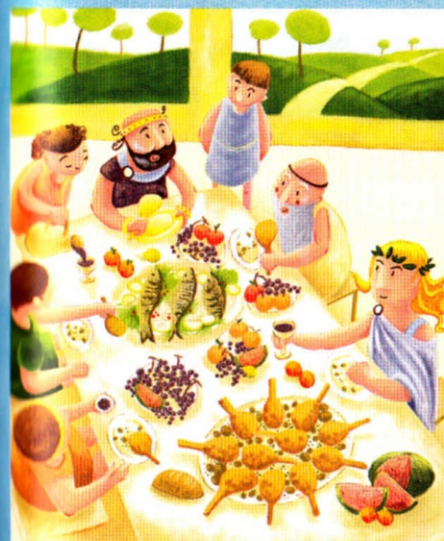
or

B?



# Answers to puzzles

## Puzzle 1



## Puzzle 2



C



A



D



B

## Puzzle 3



B



C



D



A

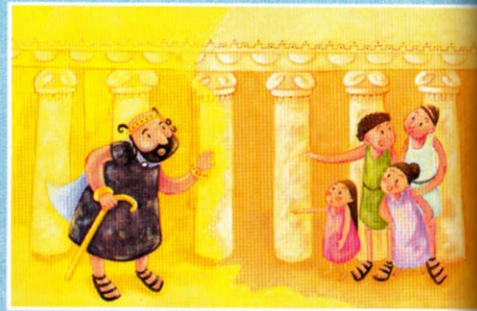


Puzzle 4



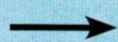
"Hello Dad!"

Puzzle 5



"It's gold!"

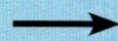
Puzzle 6



B



Puzzle 7



A



# About the story

King Midas was a real king. He lived in Ancient Greece around 3,000 years ago. An old legend says he went to the river Pactolus to wash. This river is in modern day Turkey. People still say that the stones on the river bed sparkle with gold.

